

REMARKS

The Office action of April 11, 2011 has been received and reviewed. All claims except claims 22 and 23 were allowed. The application is to be amended as previously set forth. All amendments and claim cancellations are made without prejudice or disclaimer. As further delineated herein, no new matter has been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

A. Specification:

The specification was objected of for assertedly failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter (*i.e.*, plate incubation at 37° C or under an atmosphere containing 10% CO₂) and requested that the applicants correct the specification. In response, the applicants have amended paragraph [0025] of the as-filed specification accordingly. Basis for the amendments exists in at least claims 9-11 and 17-19 as-filed, which recited:

9. The cell of claim 1, wherein said cell, when seeded at 0.5×10^6 cells/well and cultured in 6-well tissue culture plates at 37° C in DMEM with 10% serum under an atmosphere containing 10% CO₂, produces at least 5 pg IgA/seeded cell/day.

10. The cell of claim 9, wherein said cell, when seeded at 0.5×10^6 cells/well and cultured in 6-well tissue culture plates at 37° C in DMEM with 10% serum under an atmosphere containing 10% CO₂, produces at least 20 pg IgA/seeded cell/day.

11. The cell of claim 10, wherein said cell, when seeded at 0.5×10^6 cells/well and cultured in 6-well tissue culture plates at 37° C in DMEM with 10% serum under an atmosphere containing 10% CO₂, produces at least 40 pg IgA/seeded cell/day.

* * *

17. The method according to claim 12, wherein said cell is seeded at 0.5×10^6 cells/well and cultured in 6-well tissue culture plates at 37° C in DMEM with 10% serum under an atmosphere containing 10% CO₂, thus producing at least 5 pg IgA/seeded cell/day.

18. The method according to claim 12, wherein said cell is seeded at 0.5×10^6 cells/well and cultured in 6-well tissue culture plates at 37° C in DMEM with 10% serum under an atmosphere containing 10% CO₂, thus producing at least 20

pg IgA/seeded cell/day.

19. The method according to claim 12, wherein said cell is seeded at 0.5×10^6 cells/well and cultured in 6-well tissue culture plates at 37° C in DMEM with 10% serum under an atmosphere containing 10% CO₂, thus producing at least 40 pg IgA/seeded cell/day.

The applicants believe that such basis provides adequate support and should address the objection, but if the Office is of a different view in that regard, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the applicant's undersigned attorney.

B. 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 22 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as assertedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,821,512 Gao et al. in view WO 00/63403 to Hateboer et al. Although the applicants respectfully disagree, in order to expedite processing of the instant application, claims 22 and 23 have been canceled, thus mooted the rejection.

C. Rejoinder:

Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of claims 12 and 14-20. If an applicant elects claims directed to a product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims which depend from, or otherwise include all elements of the allowable product claim, will be rejoined. MPEP § 821.04. Applicants respectfully submit that claims directed to a product (*e.g.*, claim 1) were previously elected by the applicants. The product claims have been allowed. As such, the applicants respectfully request rejoinder of process claims 12 and 14-20, which include all the elements of allowed product claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, the application should be in condition for allowance. If however questions remain after consideration of the foregoing, the Office is kindly requested to contact applicants' attorney at the address or telephone number given herein.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allen C. Turner".

Allen C. Turner
Registration No. 33,041
Attorney for Applicants
TRASKBRITT, P.C.
P.O. Box 2550
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110-2550
Telephone: 801-532-1922

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